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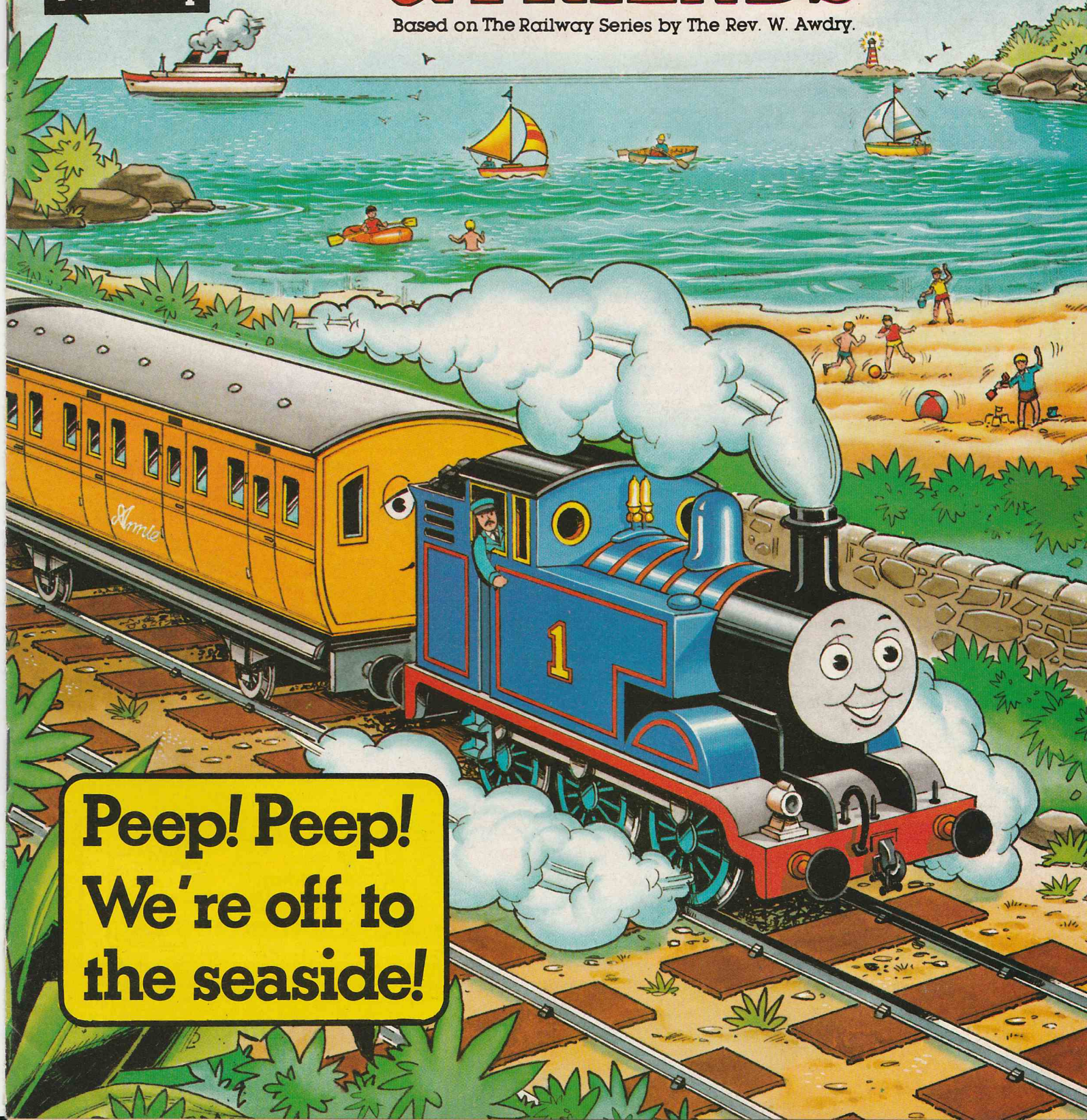
No 44 40p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

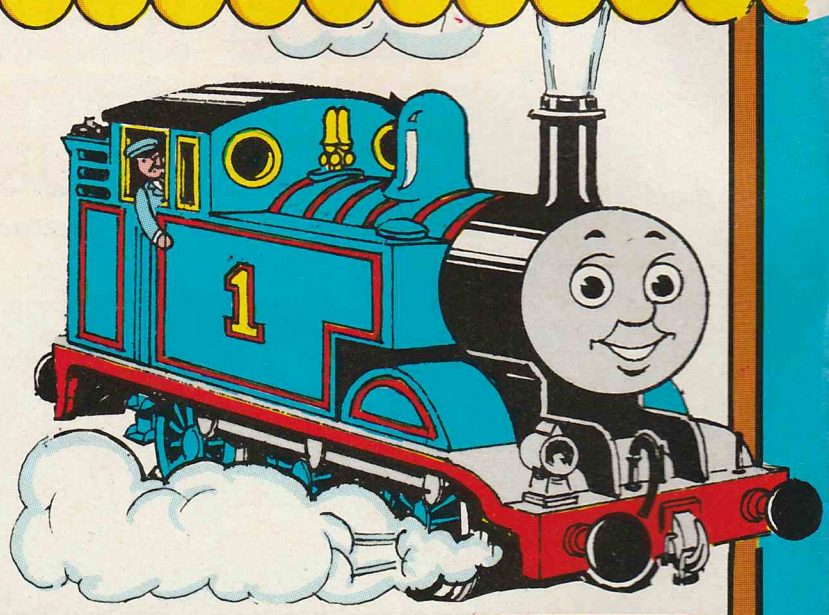
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Peep! Peep! We're off to the seaside!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! In our story that starts on the next page, the new tunnel has finally been completed. All that remains to be done is the official opening, which Thomas is very excited about. Our second story takes Thomas down to the harbour, where he has a very smelly accident!



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Take out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** and every issue will be sent straight to your home for one full year! You will also receive a splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! Just turn to page 7 for more details.

WELCOME!

The Fat Controller would like to say a very special 'Hello' to the following people . . .

Mark Cheshire, Samuel Owers, Craig Pettifore, Ian Smith, Wendy Oats, Steven Greeno, Megan Jones, Stanley Aldridge and Timothy Sturgeon.

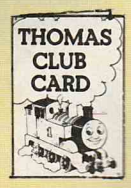
If you would like to receive a special greeting from the Fat Controller and see your name printed on this very page, please send your details to the address shown on the letters page.

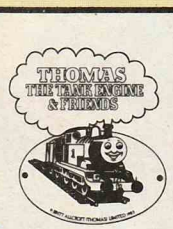
MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

There is another way of joining the **Thomas Club** without taking out a year's subscription. Just collect **3 tokens** like the one on the bottom of this page. Send one yellow, one red and one green token, together with a stamped, addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

You will receive your own little black and white membership card plus number!

Please allow 28 days for delivery.





In our next issue: Boco is to have a brand new driver!

THOMAS TOKEN

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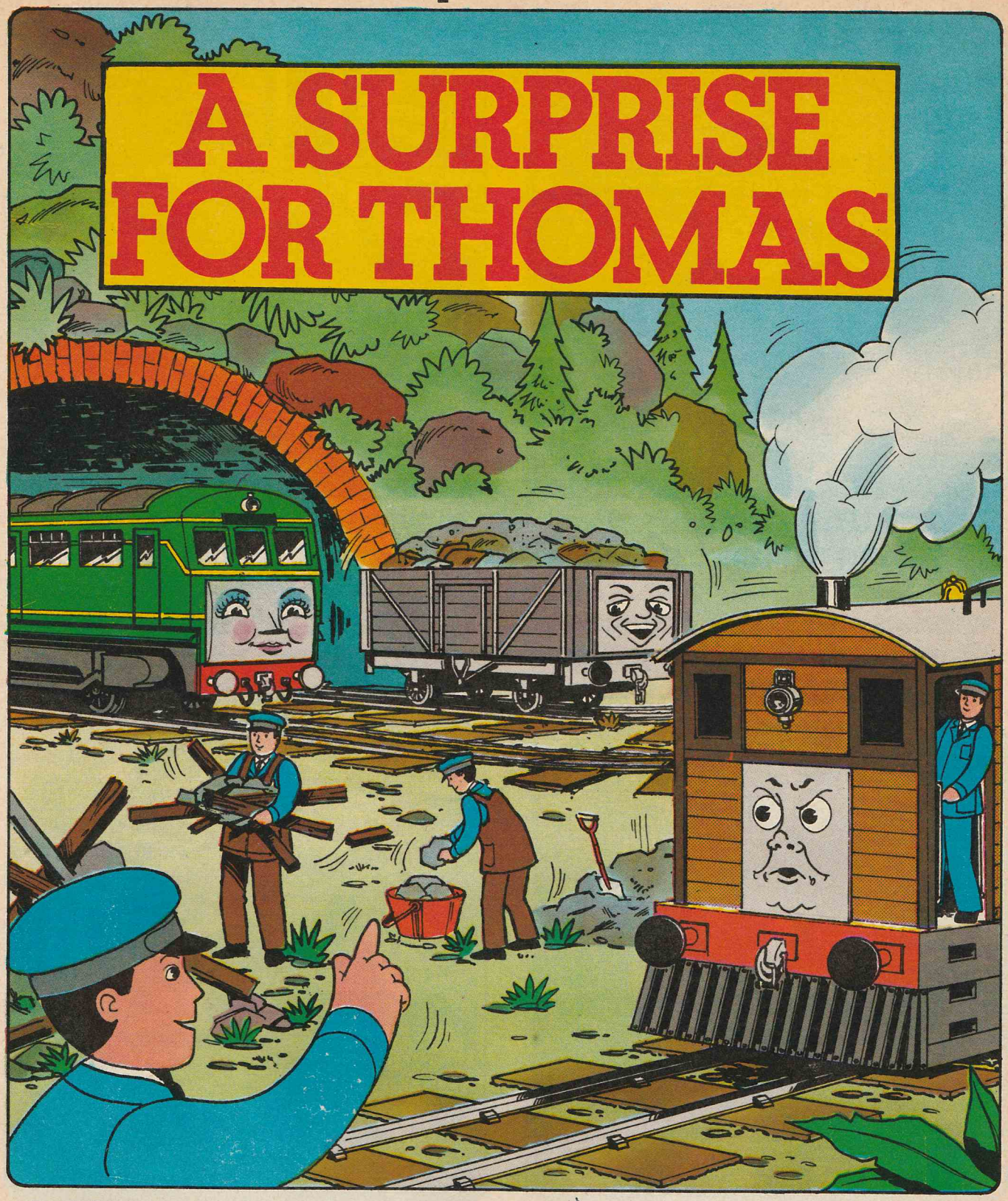
ABC

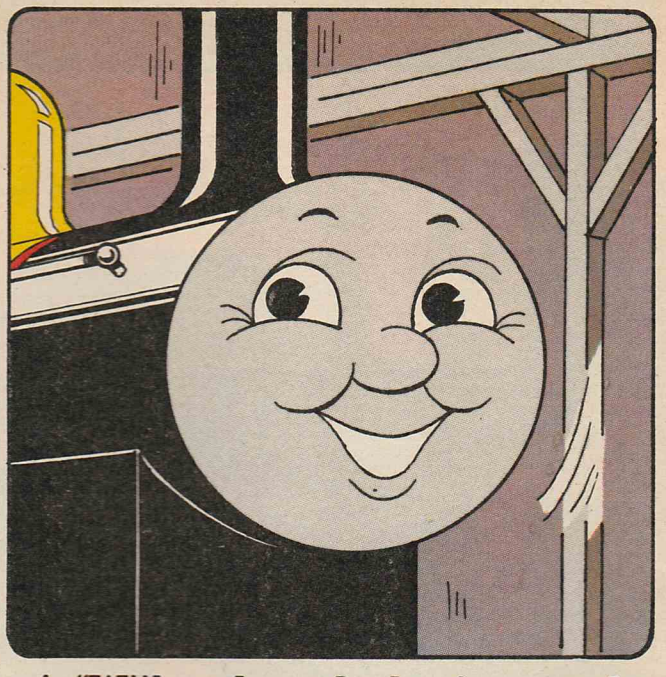
A listen and look story!



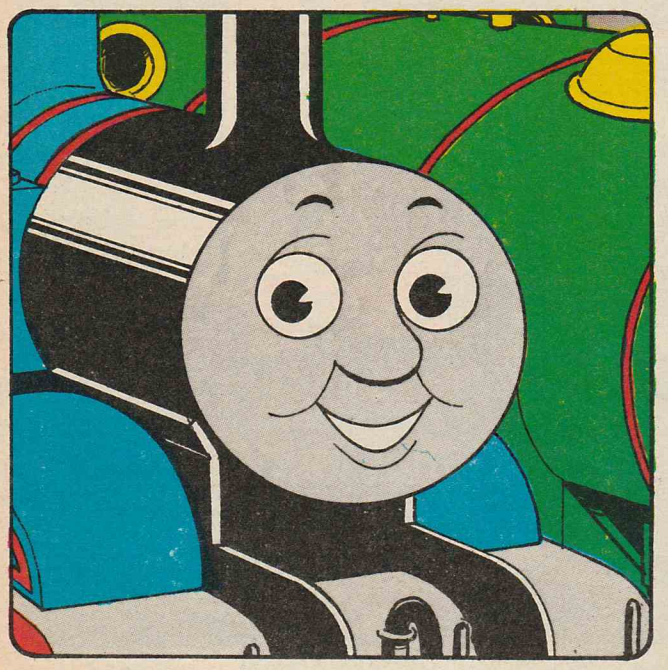
1. Work on the new tunnel was nearly complete. The men were only tidying up the site, now. Daisy, the diesel railcar, had been the first engine through the tunnel.

2. Daisy was very proud of herself. "It was nothing," she boasted, "For a modern diesel railcar like myself!" But Toby remembered just how frightened Daisy had been.

3. The Fat Controller was preparing to have the tunnel declared officially open. The engines were so excited. "There's going to be a big celebration," said Percy.

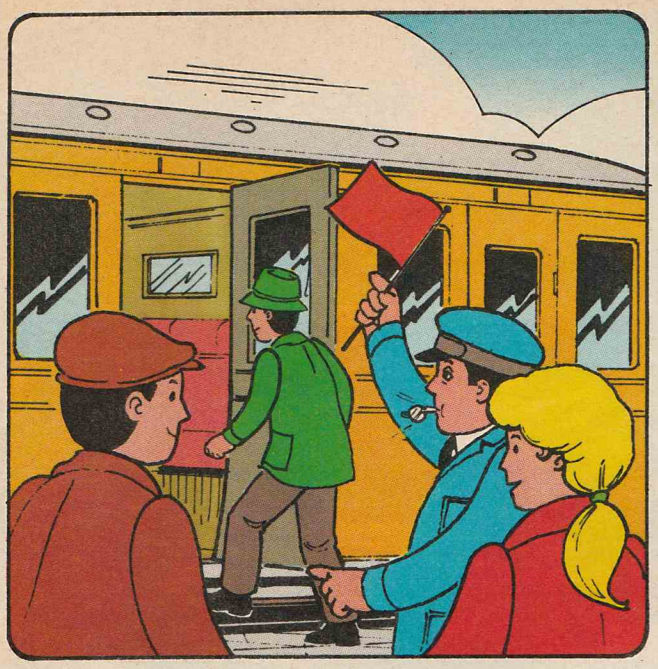


4. "With a band playing and everything!" added Thomas. "Hmph!" snorted James. "You would think you had never heard a band before!" But he was really just as excited.



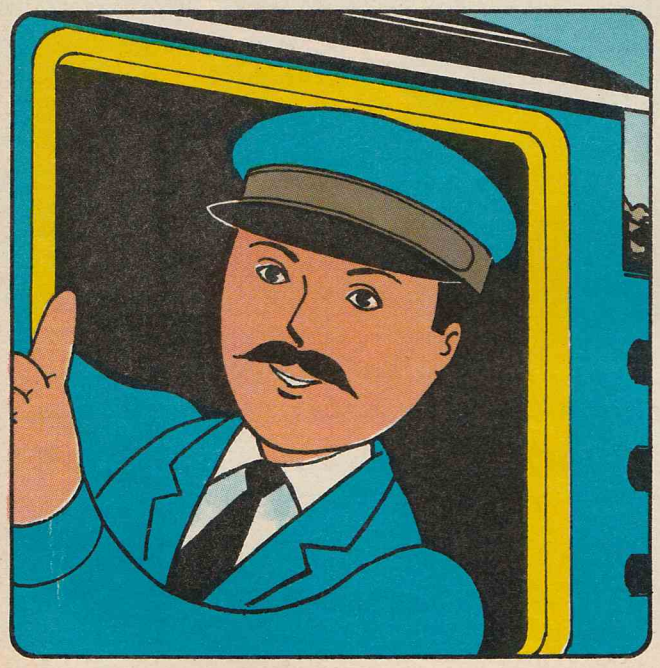
5. "The Fat Controller is inviting a guest of honour to cut a ribbon," said Duck. "How grand!" sighed Thomas dreamily. "I wouldn't want to miss all that!"

6. The engines were washed down and polished up for the big day. Thomas looked like new as he puffed along his Branch Line. Annie and Clarabel were polished too.



7. The passengers were very pleased. "Must be a special occasion!" they said. "Oh, yes," said Thomas. "The new tunnel is to be declared officially open today!"

8. Thomas was so looking forward to it. He wanted to hurry through his stations so he could finish early, but his guard and his driver wouldn't let him.



9. "We have to keep to our schedule," said his driver. "We don't want passengers missing their trains!" On his last journey of the day, Thomas arrived at a station.

10. The passengers climbed on board and Thomas was ready to go, but the signal didn't change. "Pip pip peep peeeep!" whistled Thomas. "Change the signal!"

11. Still the signal didn't change. "Sorry Thomas," said the Stationmaster. "You must wait for an important passenger, and he's late!" "Oh dear," sighed Thomas. "Now, I'm going to miss the tunnel opening, and the band and everything!" Twenty-two minutes later, the important passenger finally arrived. Thomas quickly pulled away.

12. "Hurry, hurry, hurry!" puffed Thomas. He hardly left time for the passengers to get off, when he hurried away to the tunnel! But Thomas wasn't late at all. Everyone was waiting for him! They couldn't start without Thomas, because his important passenger was the Fat Controller's guest of honour! As he arrived, the band played!

THE END

In our next issue: A new driver!

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Name .....

Age ..... **Birthday** .....

Address .....

.....

My favourite part of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends magazine is .....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian .....

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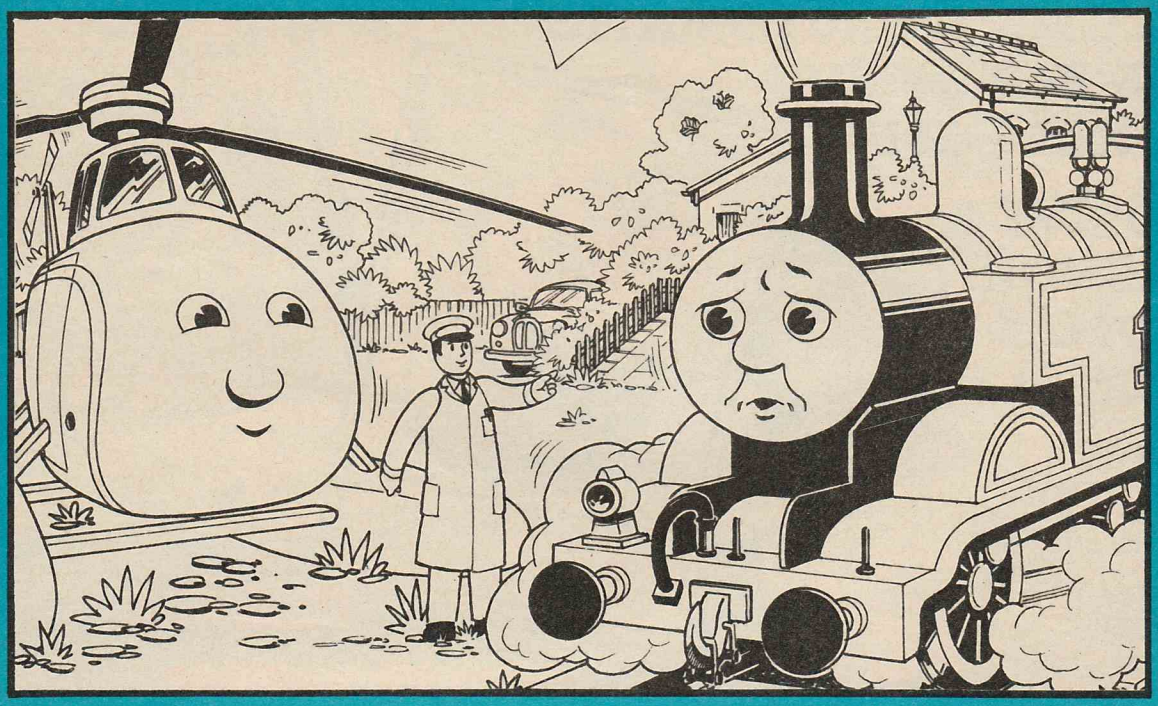
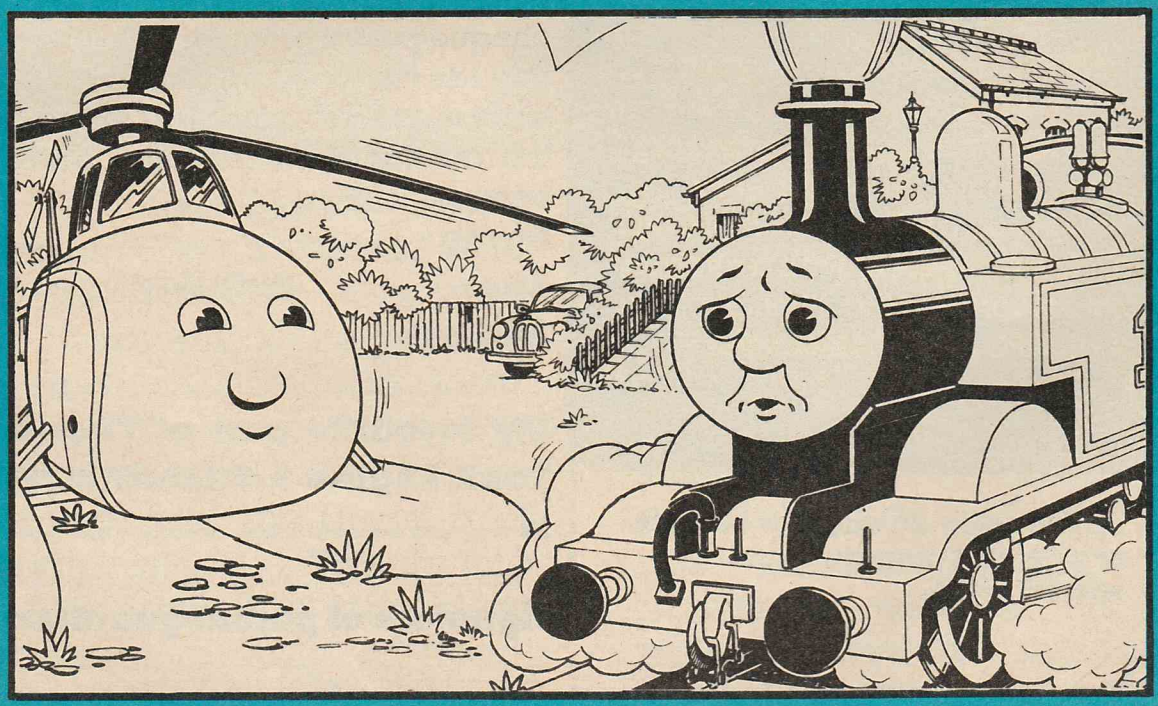
See **Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS** for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shops now!

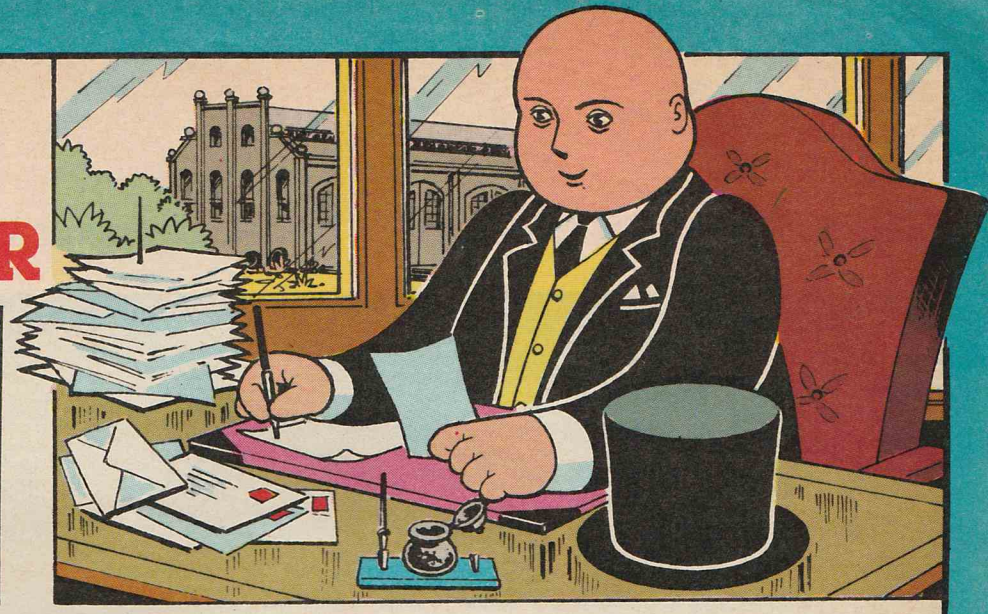
PUZZLE TIME

These two pictures may look exactly the same – but are they? See if you can spot 5 differences! When you have found them, why not finish colouring both of these splendid pictures?





Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Far Controller,
Last week my mummy took me to the dentist to have two teeth out. When we came away mummy bought me a **Thomas the Tank Engine** toy for being brave and not crying.

Love, **Andrew,** aged 4.

You do sound like a very brave young fellow indeed. I'm sure that your reward was fully deserved.

Andrew wins a set of Thomas vinyl stickers from Scorpio Products International Ltd.

A SPEEDY ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
Could you tell me who is the fastest engine on the Island of Sodor?

From **Craig,** aged 7.

Gordon is without a doubt the fastest and most powerful of all my engines. He is also the most senior member of the engine family.

BEDTIME!

Dear Fat Controller,
Does Thomas sleep in the same shed as all the other engines? If so, does he always sleep in the same place?

Love, **Mark,** aged 5.

*On the Island of Sodor there is a huge shed that **all** of the engines sleep in. Each engine has their own special place in the shed which they automatically go to last thing at night. It is a very orderly shed indeed!*

VERY TIRED!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do Thomas and his friends ever get tired?

Love, **David,** aged 6.

When the engines pull very heavy loads, they do sometimes get a little tired. However, they soon regain their strength once they are given some fine black coal, brought all the way from Wales.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go to:

Andrew Ramsey, Matthew Hall, Stuart Waite (8202), Marc Bradshaw (20077), Andrew J. Ramsey, Elliot Troru (3723), Peter Troman, Christopher Bisson, Daniel James Stock (13670), Ian Houghton, Gary Gerred (10079), Andrew Mayor, Alan Treeves, Stuart Edward Times, Paul Williams and Percy Jonathon Carshoulton.

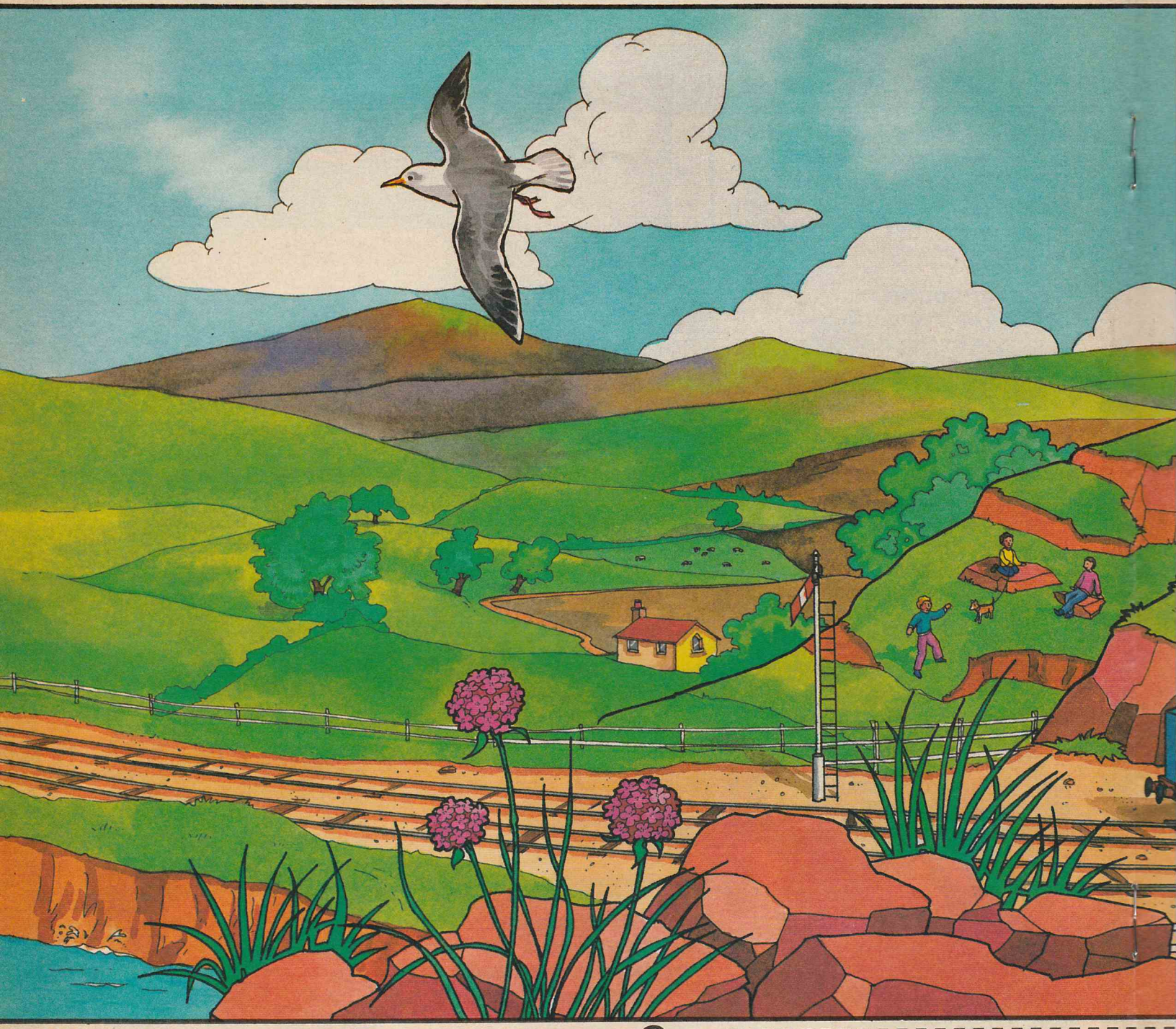
Many happy returns to you all!

If you'd like a birthday mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will do our very best.

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Into the tun



Who has just puffed into the tunnel?
What number is he?
Do you think it is dark in there?
What colour are the flowers?

Are there any anima
How many people co
Is the signal up or d
Can you see any wa

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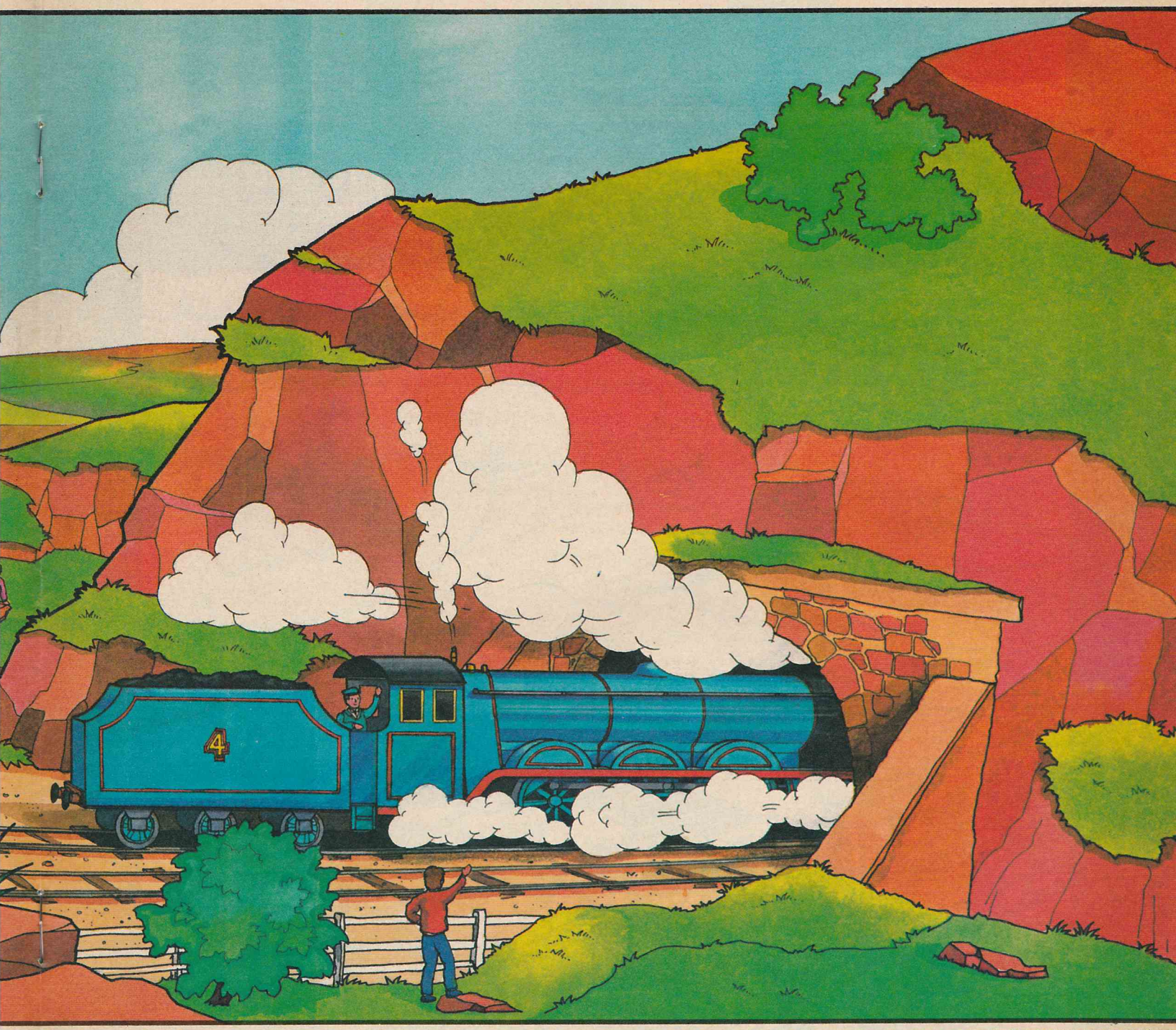


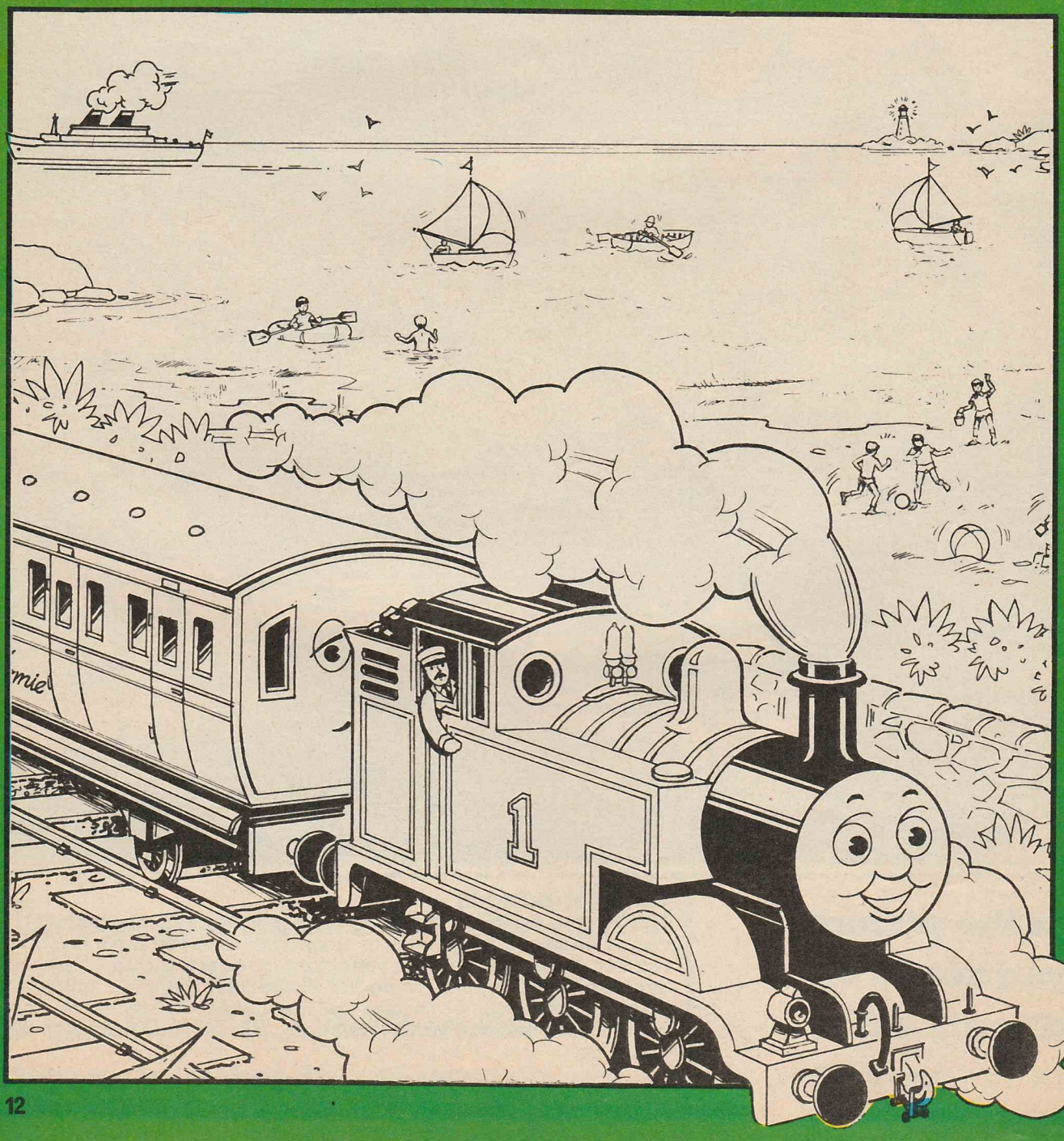
nimals in the picture?
ole can you see?
or down?
y water?

Note for parents
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next issue: . . . and out again!

COLOURING TIME!

**Thomas is chugging along by the sea.
Colour him in, as bright as can be!**



JAMES'S JOKE GALLERY!

What do you call a short-sighted dinosaur?
Doyouthinkhesaurus!
Paul, aged 4.

What do you call a bull that's asleep on the ground?
A bull dozer!
Reena, aged 7.

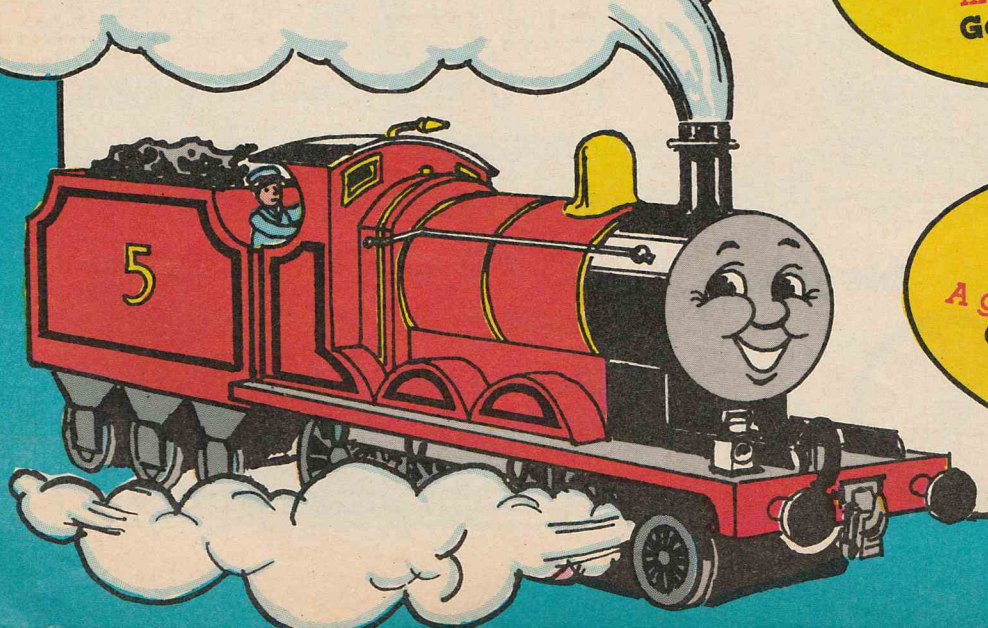
What is yellow and goes round and round?
A banana in a washing machine!
Philip, aged 4.

Why did the burglar take a shower?
Because he wanted to make a clean getaway!
Lewis, aged 4.

How do martians drink tea?
Out of flying saucers!
Philip, aged 6.

Have you got a good joke for James's Joke Gallery? Why not send it in to him at the address on the letters page?

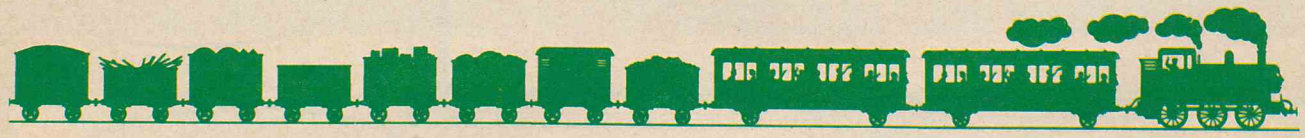
What is yellow and dangerous?
A canary with a machine-gun!
Gavin, aged 9.



What's green, bumpy and very fast?
A gherkin on a motorbike!
Christopher, aged 7.

A read-aloud story!

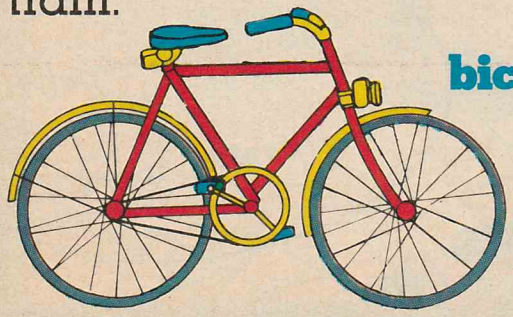
Thomas and the Cyclist



Every morning Thomas took children from the town on the hill to the school near the sea. They all enjoyed their daily ride but one day a little boy called John came up to Thomas and said, "I won't be coming on your train much longer."

"Why not?" asked Thomas.

"Because I am getting a bicycle for my birthday. I shall go to school on that. It will be much faster and more fun than going by train."



bicycle

Thomas was not very happy about this. He did not like to think there was a better way to travel than by train.

One day the following week John did not catch Thomas's train, but as he puffed down towards the sea, Thomas saw John on a bicycle rushing down the road.

"He's going much too fast. It is not safe to go fast on a bicycle," said Thomas's driver. When Thomas got to the station near the school, John was already there. He said, "You see? A bicycle is much faster than a train!"

When school was over the children came back to the station and waited for Thomas to take them back up to the town. As Thomas puffed up the hill he saw John and his bicycle, but he was not riding it: he was pushing it, very slowly. When he got to the bridge where the road crossed the railway he stopped and waited for Thomas. "I'm too tired to push my bicycle any further. Will you take me back to the town, Thomas?" Thomas smiled. "But I thought bicycles were faster than trains," he said.

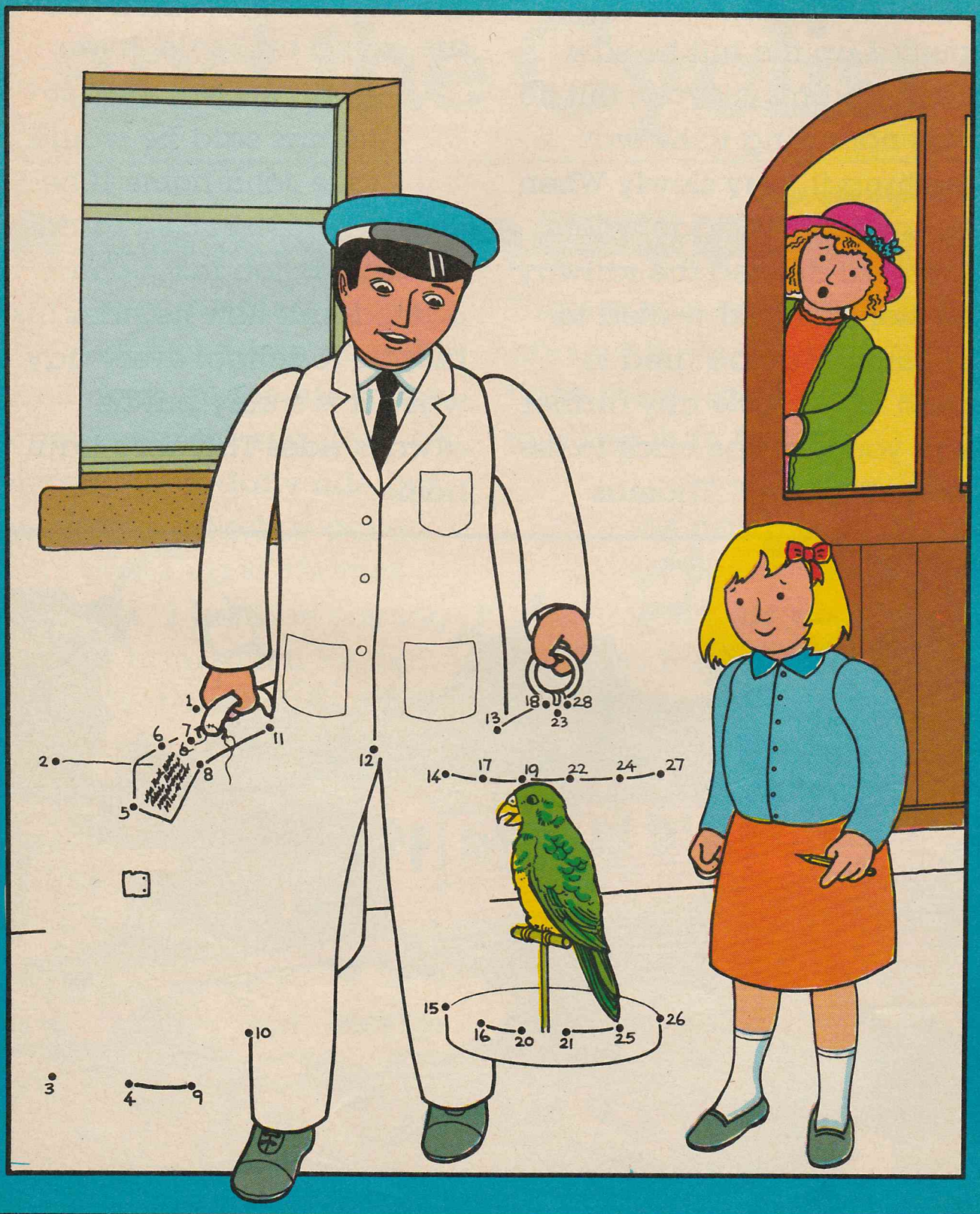
"Bicycles can be fast going down a hill, but trains are much better when you are going up," said John.

Thomas said he would take John home if he promised never to ride his bicycle too fast. John agreed and now he rides his bicycle to school every day when it is sunny, but he always rides Thomas's train home.

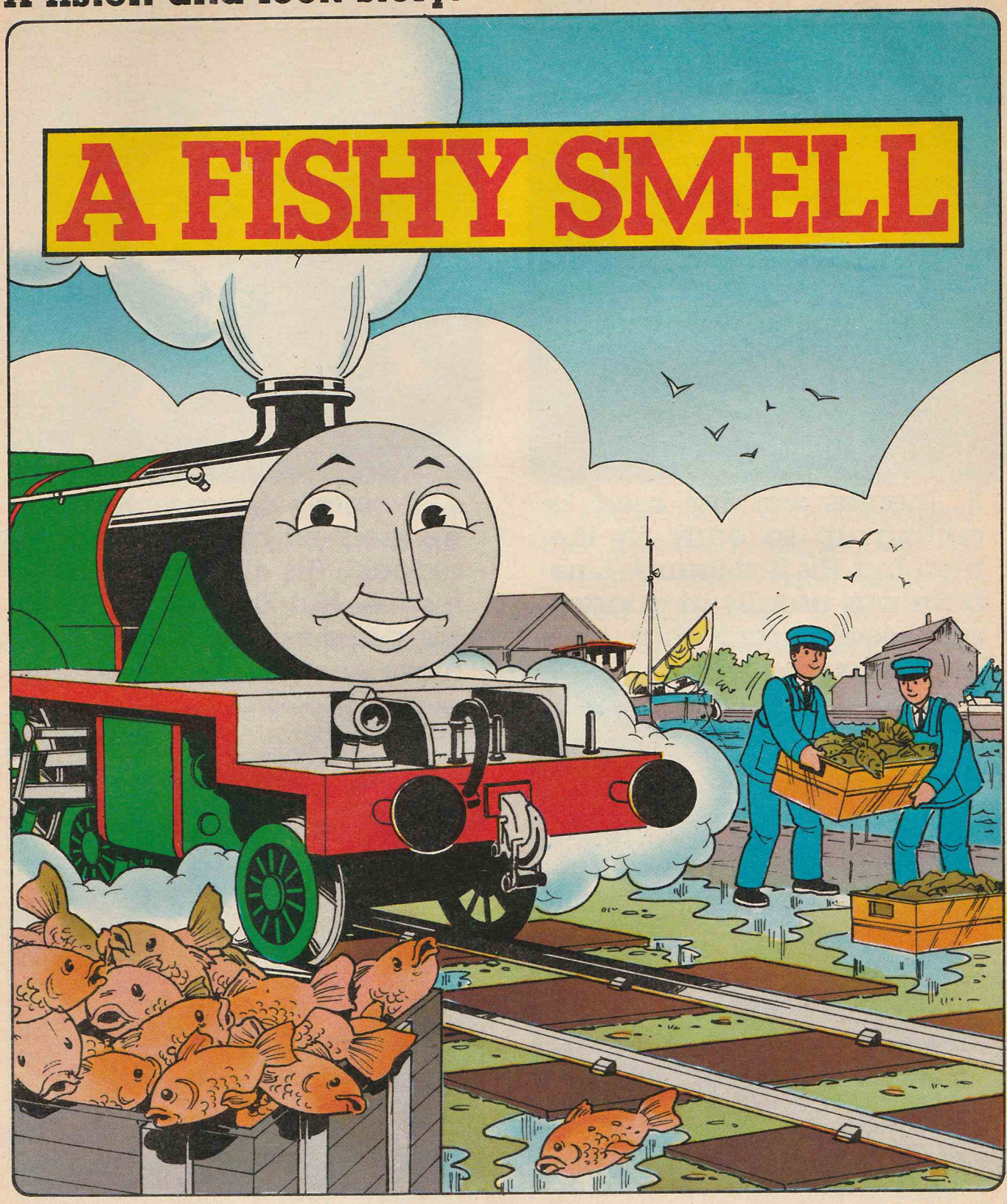
THE END

JOIN THE DOTS!

A passenger's parrot is going to fly away. Join the dots and save the day!

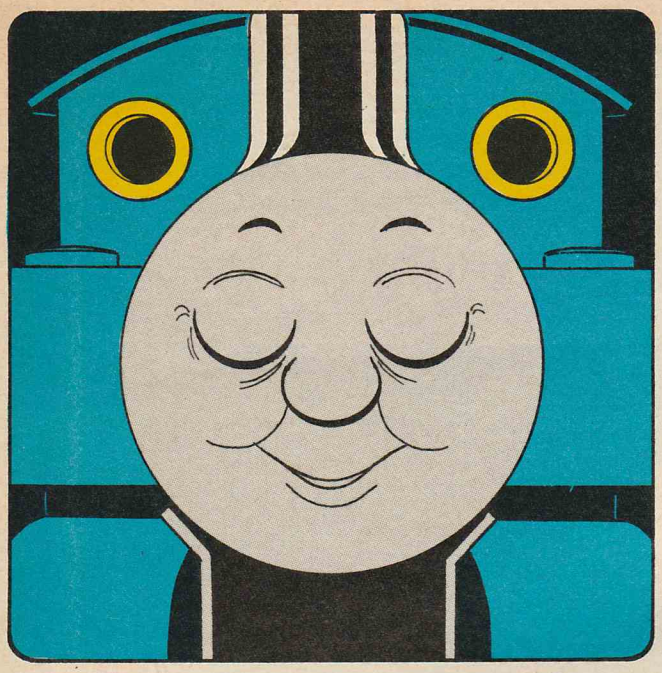


A listen and look story!

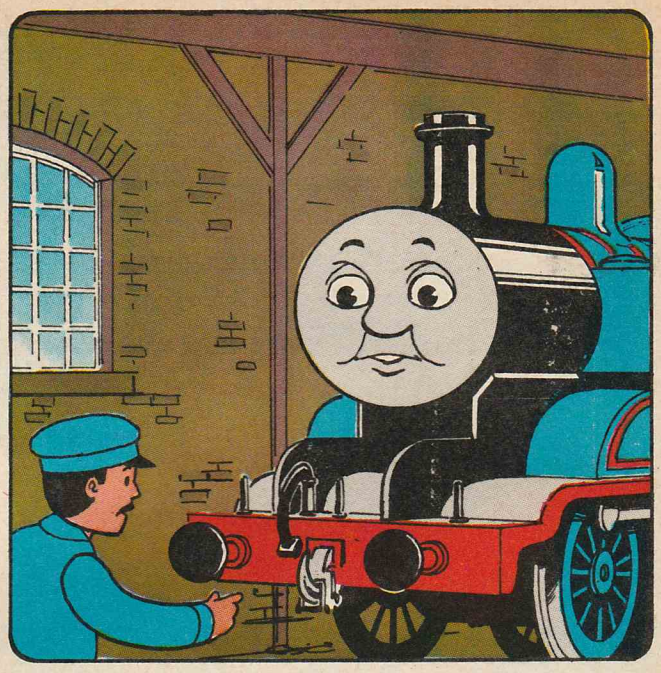


1. It was usually Henry who took the train they called "The Flying Kipper". That was the early morning train which collected the fresh fish from the harbour

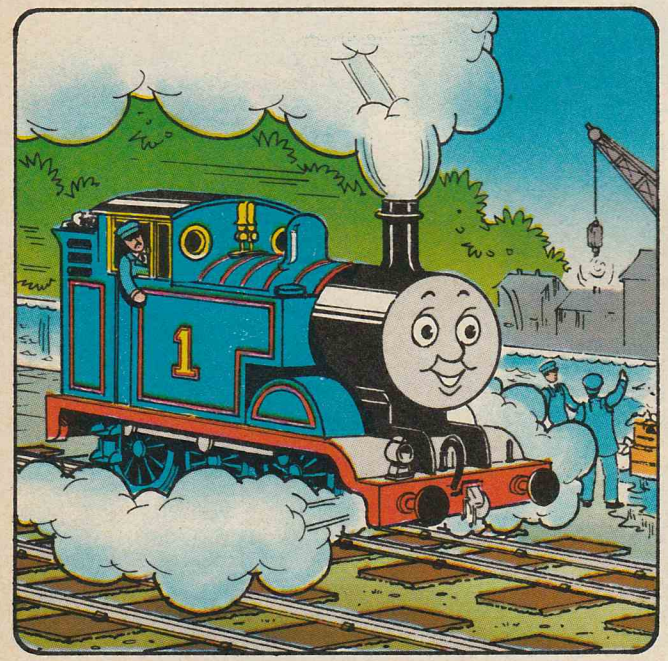
2. On this particular day however, the Fat Controller wanted Henry to pull a goods train special. So the Fat Controller asked Thomas to take The Flying Kipper



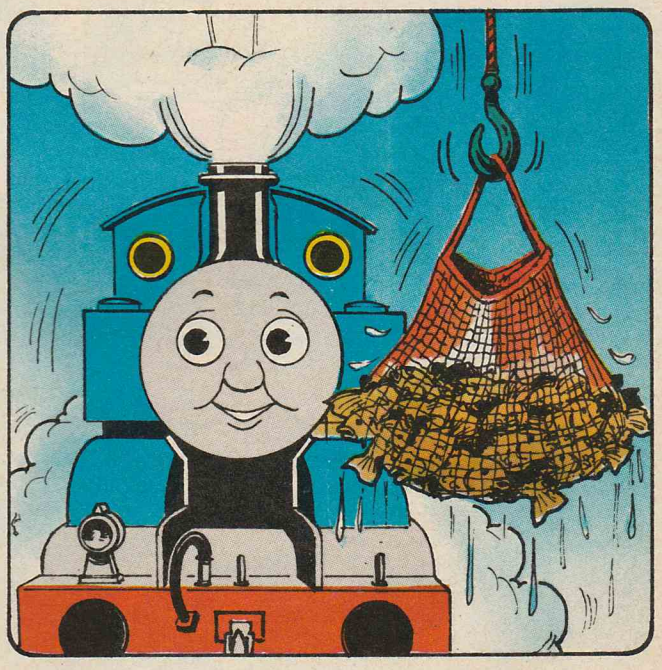
3. Thomas was not used to getting up so early in the morning. His first Branch Line train was usually at quarter-past seven, and that was early enough for him.



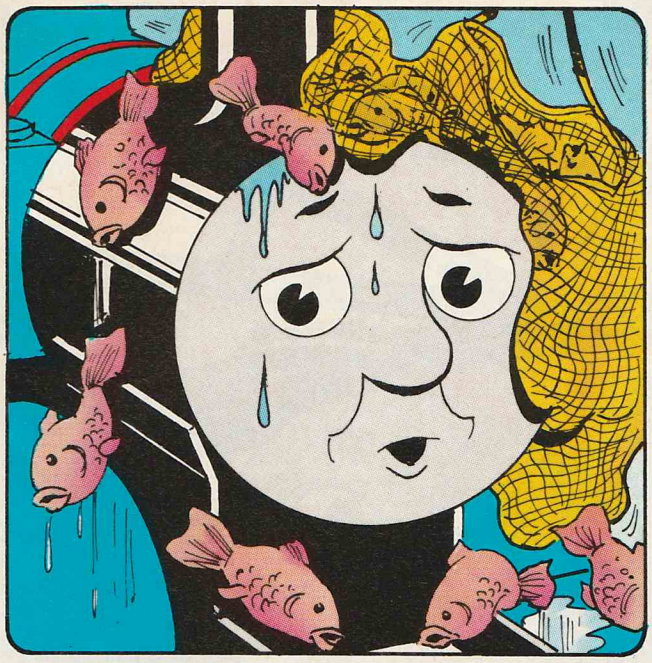
4. Thomas's driver woke him up the next morning at five o'clock! His fireman stoked his fire, but Thomas felt as if his pistons were too stiff to move at all!



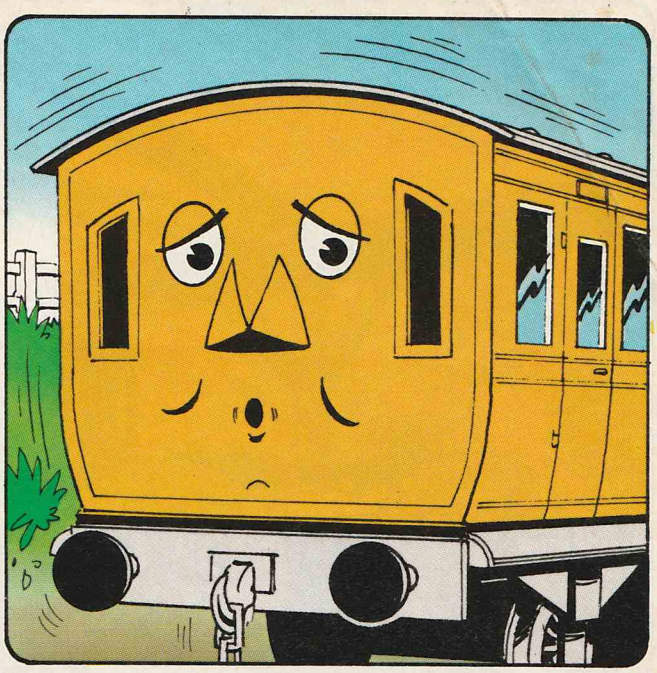
5. Thomas was very tired, but slowly he began to warm up inside. He puffed gently down to the quay. The men were working hard, unloading their morning's catch.



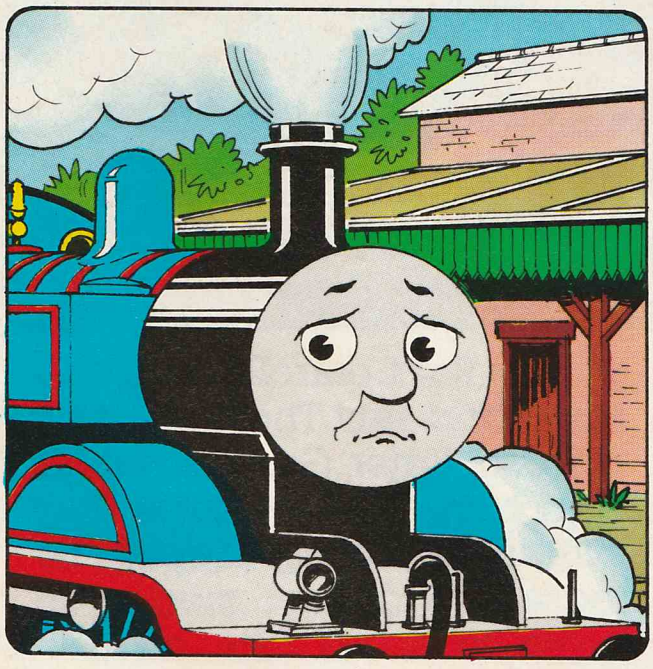
6. Nobody knows exactly why it happened, but Thomas was still rather sleepy. Perhaps his driver was tired too, but somehow Thomas slipped into a net full of fish!



7. **Splosh!** The fish fell all over him! There was no time to do anything about it. Thomas had to hurry to take The Flying Kipper and after that his own morning train.

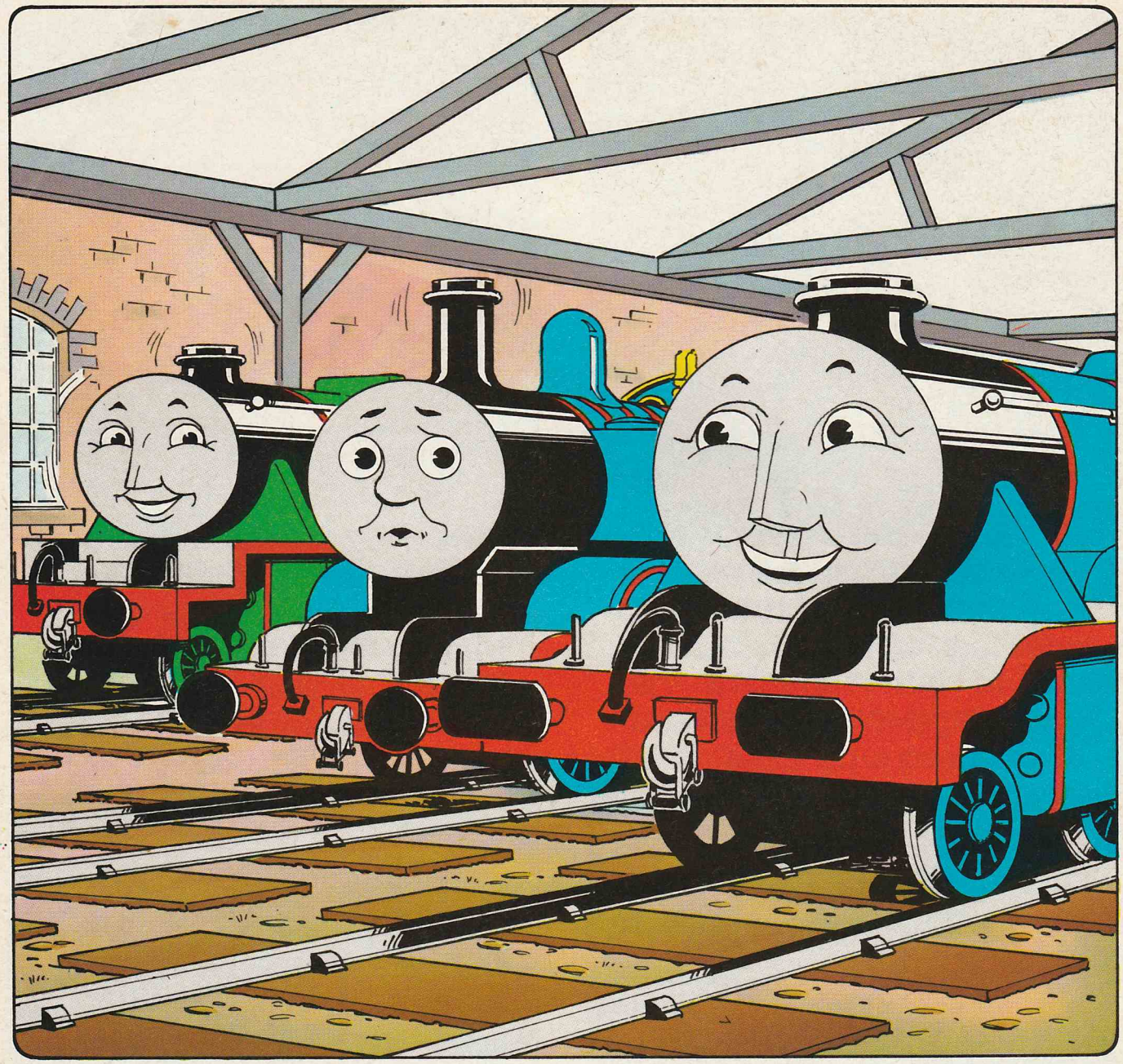


8. Annie and Clarabel were the first to comment on it. "What's that fishy smell?" asked Clarabel. "I wouldn't know," said Annie. "But I think it might be Thomas!"



9. Thomas felt rather silly as he told them about what had happened on the quay! He didn't like having to talk about it. It was such an embarrassing tale to tell!

10. The passengers couldn't help noticing either. "What is that fishy smell?" they asked. "You'll have to ask Thomas," said the guard. "I think he's been fishing!"



11. Poor Thomas had to keep retelling his embarrassing story again and again, all morning! Everybody noticed the fishy smell and they all wanted to know what it was. At last, Thomas had a short break between trains. He was fed up with smelling fishy! He went to see the Fat Controller. His driver had a word with him.

12. The Fat Controller held his nose, and sent Thomas off for a wash. Later, Gordon puffed past him. "Just because they call it The Flying Kipper," he teased, "it doesn't mean you have to smell like a fish!" Gordon teased. "But I've had a wash!" protested Thomas. "I don't smell fishy now!" But the engines still found it very funny indeed!

THE END

In our next issue: A second chance!